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Willful Infringement

New York Law School

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The Intellectual Property Law Society
and Fiat Lucre LLC Presents

"Willful Infringement"

A film produced by Jed Horovitz and
directed by Greg Hittelman

Date: November 29, 2006
Time: 1 p.m.-2 p.m.
Room A700

Willful Infringement asks provocative questions:

- Is copyright an instrument of censorship?
- Do newer copyright controls suppress the free speech of scientists, artists and others?
- Does aggressive enforcement of copyright law inhibit artists today in ways that they weren't in the past?
- Whose art is it, anyway?

This ambitious documentary argues that copyright law and growing restrictions on the Fair Use doctrine are being used by corporations to control information, suppress free speech and stifle the creativity of artists. One of the major arguments presented is that artists are inhibited because copyright law doesn't allow them to build on ideas created by previous artists.

The filmmakers believe that copyright law doesn't protect artists so much as it protects corporations. The film seeks to clarify the distinction between piracy and the act of using portions of a work for artistic reasons. The film does acknowledge the rights of the original creators of art. But the focus is more on questioning the corporate ownership of images, language and sounds. Other areas, such as fair use, the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, statutory damages and the history of copyright law are also covered.

Major players in the movement promoting a more information entering the public domain and fewer restrictions on fair use are interviewed, as well as people who have found themselves, perhaps inadvertently, on the wrong side of copyright law. Among others, the interesting mix of those interviewed include copyright attorneys; law professors; cultural historians; the manager of the rap group, Public Enemy; members of a Rolling Stones tribute band; a day care operator and two clowns.

Producer Jed Horovitz has a bachelor's degree in Art History from UCSC, a master's degree in Film and Television Production from NYU and an MBA from UCLA. Jed worked as documentary editor for Oscar winner Pierre Gaisseau, the Cousteau Society and even the Playboy Channel before being awarded a film making grant from the California Council of the Arts to create a series on storytellers. He also produced several low budget features for Roger Corman. In 1985, he founded Video Pipeline, Inc. the first company to aggregate and distribute movie previews to the video retail trade.

For More Information please visit: <http://www.willfulinfringement.com/>